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UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET  
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF  
NORFOLK 11, VIRGINIA

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~~SECRET~~ - Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (2)

From: Commander in Chief U. S. Atlantic Fleet  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (Op-09B9)

Subj: Command History (OPNAV Report 5750-5) for calendar year 1959;  
forwarding of (U)

Ref: (c) OPNAV Instruction 5750.9

Encl: (1) Command History of Commander in Chief U. S. Atlantic Fleet  
(2) Classified Supplement to enclosure (1)

1. Enclosures (1) and (2) are forwarded herewith in accordance with  
reference (a).

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NORFOLK CHIEF OF STAFF

*Op-09B9 1/22/75*

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COPY NO. *1-1*

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## COMMAND HISTORY COMMANDER IN CHIEF U.S. ATLANTIC FLEET

1959

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### MISSION

There were no changes to the Commander in Chief U.S. Atlantic Fleet (CINCLANTFLT) missions during the calendar year 1959. However, the mission for Cold War and Military Conflict Short of General War has been rephrased. These missions are restated for record purposes.

#### 1. General War

CINCLANTFLT will conduct offensive and defensive operations to gain and maintain control of the sea and air in vital areas of the Atlantic Command, in order to defend the United States against attack through the Atlantic Command area, maintain lines of communications with our Allies and U.S. forces overseas, and support the operations of adjacent Allied and National Commanders. The Atlantic Fleet will provide combat ready U.S. naval forces to the Atlantic Command and to other commands as directed, and will provide administrative, logistic and planning support thereto.

#### 2. Cold War and Military Conflict Short of General War

CINCLANTFLT will in peace, cold war, and war, conduct operations to ensure the control of the sea and air in the Atlantic Command area and provide combat ready U.S. naval forces (including administration, logistics, and planning support thereto) to the Atlantic Command and other commands as directed, in order to defend the United States against attack through the Atlantic Ocean, maintain the security of the Atlantic Command and support the operations of adjacent Allied and National Commanders.

### TRAINING

Participation in special and joint exercises during the year 1959 was as follows:

1. ASWEX 1-59, (9 - 20 March 1959), was an ASW training exercise which was conducted in three phases:

- a. A warm up and refresher period
- b. An opposed entry and sortie
- c. A SOSUS conversion exercise

2. SPRINGBOARD 59 was conducted during the period January through March 1959 in the Caribbean area with COMCARIBSEAFRON coordinating the various requirements for services. As in the past, the purpose of SPRINGBOARD was to provide an opportunity for basic type training in an area of more favorable weather than is found in other operating areas at this time of year. Type commanders designated as many units as possible, compatible with other operational commitments, for participation in this excellent training.

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3. OPERATION INLAND SEAS observed the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Chicago Trade Fair and Exposition, and showed the Navy to the Great Lakes area. TF 47, under COMDESLANT, conducted 37 port visits and 3 amphibious demonstrations. Nearly 2 million civilians visited aboard the ships, and 10 million observed the ships in person. Public reaction was extremely enthusiastic.

4. PROJECT MERCURY - On 9 September 1959 a U.S. space vehicle, designed ultimately to place man in orbital flight about the earth, was located and recovered successfully by air and sea units of a LANTFLT recovery force under operational control of COMDESFLOT FOUR. The Project MERCURY space capsule was first sighted by a P2V search plane of PATRON FIVE three and a half hours after lift off, and was on board the destroyer USS STRONG (DD 758) eight hours after a 1400 mile Atlas boosted ballistic flight from Cape Canaveral. Significance of this recovery was the demonstration that initial recovery planning was sound since impact occurred 400 miles short of the intended landing area.

COMDESFLOT FOUR as Naval Recovery Force Commander for Project MERCURY again demonstrated the results of sound training and planning. In less than forty-five minutes after a "Little Joe" rocket had boosted a Mercury test capsule into space 4 December 1959, a PATRON EIGHT P2V search aircraft made a visual sighting of the capsule in the ocean area 190 miles east of Wallops Island, Virginia. Within two hours the capsule, with its BIOPAC containing a small monkey (nicknamed SAM), was safely aboard the destroyer BORIE (DD 704.)

5. RECOVERY MISSILE OPERATIONS. The first free world recovery of animal specimens after a journey into outer space was accomplished on 28 May 1959 by a LANTFLT recovery force operating in the Atlantic Missile Range. The Jupiter missile nose cone containing two small monkeys, aptly named Able and Baker, was located and on board the USS KIOWA (ATF 72) within two and a half hours after being launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

A peaceful use of missiles was demonstrated on 8 June 1959 by the submarine USS BARBERO. A Regulus I surface to surface missile, launched from this guided missile ship 100 miles at sea, carried the country's first official "missile" mail to MAAS Mayport where it was successfully landed by pilots of Guided Missile Service Squadron TWO.

6. Special and Joint Exercises of a classified nature are listed in the classified supplement.

7. In the field of special training, instruction in atomic warfare was provided for some 152 ACLANT officers during 1959. Instructors from the Nuclear Weapons Training Center, Atlantic presented the Atomic Warfare Information Course at Norfolk during February and in the United Kingdom and Malta during July. This course is conducted on a Confidential level under the sponsorship of Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic (SACLANT). In November, Commander Training Command, Atlantic Fleet conducted the Advanced Naval Warfare Orientation Course for 85 senior officers from 22 foreign nations. This course was designed to acquaint these officers with the broad concepts of naval warfare today with indications of the trend for the future. Five minesweepers, coastal (Spain), one destroyer (Spain), one destroyer escort (Thailand), one patrol escort (Taiwan) and one coast guard cutter (Haiti) were given shakedown training by the Fleet Training Center, Norfolk. Commander Mine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet

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provided type training for MSC. Three destroyers (Germany) and one destroyer (Greece) were given shakedown training under Fleet Training Group, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Unique and unusual events and accomplishments, as well as visits of special significance, are listed below in chronological order:

14 January 1959

CINCLANTFLT announced the names of 15 destroyers and one destroyer tender scheduled for change of home ports by 1 July 1959.

1 February 1959

Admiral Mitsugu Ihara, Chief of the Maritime Staff, Japanese Defense Agency, visited Norfolk for two days during a tour of the U.S. as guest of the Chief of Naval Operations.

16 February 1959

CINCLANTFLT announced the opening of a new, automatic and electronic communications system connecting 38 naval commands on the Atlantic seaboard from Brunswick, Maine, to San Juan, Puerto Rico.

17 February 1959

Ten U.S. Navy destroyers and two submarines began intensive anti-submarine training exercises with naval forces of eight South American nations. Split into two groups of five destroyers and one submarine each, one group trained with nations of the western side of South America and the other group trained with nations on the eastern side.

19 February 1959

Admiral Jerauld Wright, USN, CINCLANTFLT, was elected President of the U.S. Naval Institute for a one year term succeeding the Chief of Naval Operations.

21 February 1959

Two Atlantic Fleet ships were the recipients of messages of appreciation from President Eisenhower during his return flight from Mexico to the U.S. The ships were the ANTIETAM and HALE, both commended for standing by on search rescue duty during the President's overwater flight.

11 March 1959

CINCLANTFLT announced the establishment of a new training activity at Norfolk, called the Nuclear Weapons Training Center Atlantic.

23 March 1959

Twenty-eight Atlantic Fleet ships were scheduled to visit 24 ports in the Great Lakes following the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway. The visit was known as "Operation Inland Seas". First announcement came from CINCLANTFLT.

25 February 1959

The guided missile cruiser USS GALVESTON successfully fired the first Talos surface to air guided missile ever shot at sea. 3

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24 March 1959

CINCLANTFLT announced the visit to Norfolk of King Hussein of Jordan scheduled for 28 March. The King was accompanied by 13 military and civilian leaders from Jordan.

3 April 1959

Twenty-six ships from three NATO navies were in port following the completion of one week of combined anti-submarine warfare training exercises called NEW BROOM IX.

21 April 1959

Commander Training Command was host to Rear Admiral Vehbi Z. Dumer, Commander Training Corps Command, Turkish Navy, on April 20.

5 May 1959

The U.S. Navy's first nuclear powered guided missile frigate will be named for Commodore William Bainbridge, Navy officials announced. The keel for the ship was laid on May 15th.

25 May 1959

Rear Admiral Wayne R. Loud, USN, relieved Rear Admiral Alfred G. Ward, USN, as Deputy Chief of Staff to CINCLANTFLT.

1 June 1959

The opening phase of Operation Inland Seas got underway when sixteen ships left East Coast ports. After two weeks of underway training the ships were scheduled to join Task Force 47 and enter the St. Lawrence Seaway.

22 July 1959

Postmaster General of the United States, the Honorable Arthur E. Summerfield visited Norfolk to present a plaque to Captain R.F. Schade, COMSUBRON SIX, in commemoration of the first official guided missile mail delivery.

28 July 1959

Secretary of the Navy, William B. Franke paid Task Group ALFA a three day visit observing antisubmarine warfare training exercises. This was the Secretary's first visit to the Atlantic Fleet since taking over as SECNAV.

14 October 1959

Admiral Jerauld Wright, USN, CINCLANTFLT, was presented with the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by the University of Massachusetts.

30 October 1959

The Navy announced the formation of the Norfolk Detachment of the Operational Test and Evaluation Force.

3 November 1959

COMDESFLOT FOUR announced the inauguration of the U.S. Navy's Fleet Rehabilitation and Modernization Program at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard for four Norfolk based destroyers.

12 November 1959

The first class of an Advanced Naval Warfare Orientation course for Senior Allied Officers was convened at the U.S. Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Va.

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17 December 1959

Admiral Jerauld Wright, USN, CINCLANTFLT, announced his retirement from the Naval Service, effective 1 March 1960.

22 December 1959

Plans to inactivate 13 Atlantic Fleet ships during the first six months of 1960 were announced by the Navy.

During 1959, a number of ships joined the Atlantic Fleet. Among them was the nuclear powered ballistic missile submarine, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON, commissioned in December 1959. Also joining the fleet was the guided missile cruiser, USS PROVIDENCE, commissioned in September. Three nuclear powered attack submarines were commissioned during 1959, they were USS SKIPJACK, USS TRITON (the world's largest submarine) and USS SEA DRAGON.

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COMMAND HISTORY  
COMMANDER IN CHIEF U.S. ATLANTIC FLEET  
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

1959  
(Classified Supplement)

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The following classified exercises were held in 1959:

1. LANTFLEX 1-59 was an intertype training exercise and relief operation for ELM strike fleet relief forces conducted by COMSECONDFLT during the period 12 January - 2 March 1959. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. WSEG PHASE II (WEXVAL 8, 9) was conducted in October - November - December 1959, to evaluate the effects of ECM on the terminal phase of TERRIER and TALOS. 21 ships participated, with jamming provided by Air Force B-66 aircraft. Results indicated that a Carrier Task Force, under conditions of adequate training, stability of critical personnel, and a widely dispersed formation can make a very creditable showing against attacking forces in a concentrated ECM environment. (CONFIDENTIAL)

3. ASWEX 2-59, conducted 23 June - 14 August 1959, provided A/S carrier group ASW training, as well as training cruises for USNROTC midshipmen. Three separate A/S carrier groups (1 CVS, 1 DESRON each) were opposed by 4 SS. Embarked 1st Class midshipmen performed duties normally assigned to enlisted personnel. (CONFIDENTIAL)

4. LANTBEX 1-59 was an Atlantic Barrier exercise and was conducted under the direction of COMASDEFORLANT during the month of May 1959. At the direction of CINCLANTFLT the location for conducting the exercise was changed from the vicinity of Argentina, Newfoundland to the Greenland-Iceland-United Kingdom area. (SECRET)

When location for conducting the exercise was changed, the concept placed emphasis on surveillance to gain intelligence on Soviet submarines which might be transiting the area. However, by 7 May, when the air barrier commenced and while submarines were still moving into their initial positions, primary emphasis was placed on training and data collection while surveillance became secondary. Under this concept, five submarines and three P2V aircraft assumed barrier picket stations opposing three friendly submarines acting as transitors. (SECRET)

On 10 May the Soviet Electronic Intelligence Ship, PROFESSOR UPSONICH, was located in the barrier area and photographs were taken. Due to possible interception of tactical signals and disclosure of U.S. coordinated tactics and procedures, complete radio silence was imposed on participating units, except for reporting valid contacts. Despite maximum surveillance by all barrier units in an effort to maintain contact on the PROFESSOR UPSONICH, it was unsuccessful due to adverse weather conditions. (SECRET)

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On 15 May exercise transitor operations were resumed while maintaining maximum radio silence on tactical circuits, and on 21 May maximum surveillance was resumed. (SECRET)

Continuous air surveillance was maintained throughout the exercise. Two aircraft were maintained on the east barrier and one on the west barrier, while an additional aircraft made periodic surveillance flights to the northwest and southwest of Iceland in order to report movements of Soviet surface ships. Soviet trawler activity, with the accompanying mother ships, oilers and factory ships, was considered to be heavy. This activity generally appeared to be in the normal fishing areas except for the report on the PROFESSOR UPSWICH. (SECRET)

The exercise was terminated on 1 June 1959. Twenty-seven contacts were obtained on U.S. submarines acting as exercise transitors. Five contacts, initially identified as unknown, were obtained. Three were evaluated as fishing trawlers, one was evaluated as "possible submarine", not U.S. or known friendly, and one was positively identified as a Soviet ZULU class submarine. This classification was confirmed by photographs taken by aircraft. Close examination of the pictures indicate that an object covered with a canvas tarpaulin may have been a missile launcher. (SECRET)

5. SLAMEX 1-59, conducted by COMASDEFORLANT during 13-24 April 1959, was an exercise designated to test the concept of close-in defense of the U.S. against attack by guided missile submarines. The attacking force consisted of four guided missile submarines and two decoys. One destroyer squadron deployed to single ship SAU stations and one antisubmarine carrier group made up the defensive force. Submarines were unrestricted except that missile launches were required to be made from within the designated exercise area. Only one SSG was destroyed before completing missile launches. The remaining three made a total of five successful missile launches. Contact was gained and attacks made on all but one SSG. The evaluation report of this exercise is still in preparation so that no definite conclusions may be drawn at this time concerning the effectiveness of the close-in defense concept. (CONFIDENTIAL)

6. BIG DEAL was a combined SECONDFLT/SIXTHFLT exercise carried out in the western Mediterranean in February 1959 in connection with the relief of NEM deployed units. As senior of the two fleet commanders, Commander SECOND Fleet was OTC. The objective of the exercise was to train in mutual support, and augmentation of the SIXTH Fleet, and for the SECOND Fleet to train in CINCLM/COMSIXTHFLT strike procedures as well as to test various features of the Atlantic Fleet Emergency War Plan. The exercise proved to be most beneficial, as the objectives were attained and in addition a good check was made on communications security. (CONFIDENTIAL)

7. The South American ASW Cruise was conducted during February - April 1959. Its primary purposes were to provide basic training opportunities for South American nations, improve their ASW readiness by demonstrating proper ASW procedures and to promote good will and improve inter-American relations. The cruise was conducted by two separate groups, each under the command of a rear admiral and consisting of one DD/ DL, one submarine and 3 P2V aircraft. One group conducted ASW operations with forces of Venezuela, Brazil,



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Uruguay and Argentina on the East Coast of South America; the other with Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile on the West Coast of South America. It is considered that the purposes of the cruise were accomplished. The participating South American nations showed considerable ASW potential but required additional training. (CONFIDENTIAL)

8. BRIGADELEX 1-59, 2-59, 3-59. Between January and June 1959, a series of three similar amphibious exercises were conducted by COMPHIBLANT and CG FMFLANT to develop an amphibious capability for both across-the-beach and vertical assault and to provide the Fleet with a force capable of exploiting the inherent advantages of rapid deployment of specially equipped and trained assault forces. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Each of the foregoing exercises was divided into two segments: the first consisting of an amphibious landing at Vieques, P.R., and the second a similar exercise at Onslow Beach, N.C. For each BRIGADELEX, a Marine Provisional Brigade was formed, with essential air and ground support units attached to an RLT/MAG organization. One BLT was landed by helicopter. Fixed wing air support was provided from shore bases. (CONFIDENTIAL)

The exercises included test objectives concerned with improving speed of loading, landing, handling of logistic resupply by helicopter, new items of material, and tactical procedures. Results of tests are contained in separate documents. The tests were completed satisfactorily, and the exercise objectives in general were satisfied. Further development of modern amphibious capabilities within the Fleet will be accomplished through continuance of the BRIGADELEX concept in scheduled amphibious exercises, and in larger scale exercises designed to test the lessons learned from BRIGADELEX operations. (CONFIDENTIAL)

9. PHIB CPX 59 was a major CPX involving PHIBLANT and 2nd MAGTF, conducted at Camp Lejeune 2-9 October 1959. Staffs were exercised in the planning and execution of a major amphibious exercise, and became acquainted with CINCSOUTH/COMSTRIKFORSOUTH doctrines and operational areas. A need for more EW and UW training was confirmed by the exercise. (CONFIDENTIAL)

10. PACKARD X was an amphibious command post exercise conducted between 4 May and 28 May 1959 by Marine Corps School, (MCS) Quantico. It involved the planning and execution of a simulated amphibious assault in the Camp Lejeune, N.C. area. Forces were primarily constructive, with actual forces composed of students from Senior and Junior Schools, Marine Corps Schools, plus a limited number of supporting troops and naval vessels. Air support was provided from Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station. The primary purpose of the exercise was to exercise the Marine Corps Schools students in staff planning and functioning, which purpose was accomplished through the assignment of students to all staff billets normal to amphibious forces and troop units. Planning by student staffs was performed during the period 4-22 May, in conjunction with planning by naval staffs assigned to support the exercise. Troop operations were conducted 26-28 May, and involved both waterborne and helicopter forces. The exercise terminated on 29 May. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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11. DICE CUP. This was another in the series of annual, global atomic coordination exercises and was conducted from 27 February to 2 March 1959. Results of DICE CUP were most encouraging in that they demonstrated that the experience gained in previous similar exercises had resulted in sound improvements to the atomic coordination procedures. The most noteworthy observation from DICE CUP was that the number of messages handled decreased to less than half the number handled in the previous exercise (POG COUNT, 1957). (SECRET)

12. AUTO LOG. A command post exercise of CINCLANTFLT OPLAN 201-59 (Rev.), was conducted 13-16 April 1959. The CINCLANT/CINCLANTFLT Staff operational and type commanders, plus COMSTSLANT, simulated execution of the Fleet and supporting plans to test certain concepts contained therein. AUTO LOG was the first known GPX of the CINCLANTFLT OPLAN 201 series, and for that reason no attempt was made to war game the exercise. The participants learned many lessons from this first simulated integration of Fleet plans. The need for a few minor changes in the plans revealed during the play of the exercise will be contained in forthcoming changes thereto. Present intentions are to conduct similar GPX bi-annually. (SECRET)

13. The Navy portion of Joint Civilian Orientation Cruise number 28 was conducted by A/S TASK GROUP BRAVO out of Quonset Point, R.I. on 3-4 May 1959 for approximately 80 civilian guests of the Department of Defense. A demonstration of A/S carrier group operations was provided, supplemented by displays ashore set up by COMPAIR QUONSET. (CONFIDENTIAL)

14. NEW BROOM IX was a small scale ASWEX/CONVEX designed to exercise assigned NATO commanders, headquarters and forces in the control and protection of convoys and in independent anti-submarine operations. The exercise was conducted in the WESTLANT area 30 March - 4 April 1959. Forces included U.S. and Canadian surface, air, and submarine units. The exercise was shortened from ten to five days to permit forces involved to participate in the NATO tenth anniversary ceremonies on 6 - 7 April. CINCPACFLT was OSE and COMSOPACFLT was OCE. Exercise aims were accomplished. Note: NEW BROOM X is scheduled in 1960. Commencing in 1960 a new exercise, SHORT STOP (a FLEX/ASWEX), will alternate with NEW BROOM exercises. (NATO CONFIDENTIAL)

15. SWEEP CLEAR IV was a small-scale NATO mine and mine countermeasure exercise conducted off Charleston, S.C. 6 - 24 July 1959. The Canadian-U.S. exercise demonstrated the integration of respective mine countermeasures with very few directives. The exercise was the first major test of acoustic-equipped minesweeping devices during minehunting operations, in both day and night conditions. (NATO CONFIDENTIAL)

16. SIDESTEP was a NATO-wide GPX conducted 17-25 September 1959, to test procedures for naval and civilian control of shipping, and operational and logistic operations in the opening days of a simulated nuclear war. (NATO SECRET)

17. FISHPLAY IV was a small scale sub-vs.-sub NATO exercise conducted in the WESTLANT area 28 September - 12 October 1959. Training was provided in SUB-AIR barrier procedures, and the NATO SUB-AIR doctrine tested and favorably evaluated. (NATO CONFIDENTIAL)

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18. RIPTIDE was a small-scale NATO strike exercise conducted by COM-STRIKFLTANT in the WESTLANT area 15-20 July 1959. U.S. and U.K. forces made coordinated, simulated atomic and conventional strikes against NORAD defenses of CONUS. Additionally, the exercise tested cross-operation of aircraft between U.S. and U.K. carriers, and included ASW and anti-surface raider exercises. (NATO CONFIDENTIAL)

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